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MBFR-03 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 IO-13 H-03 DODE-00 OIC-04

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EUR:WJSTOESSEL

PM:LSLOSS

DOD:SECRETARY SCHLESINGER

NSC:DR. KISSINGER

S/S:GBARNES,JR.

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

USNMR SHAPE

USLOSACLANT

USCINCEUR

USDEL MC

S E C R E T STATE 159069

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: FOLLOW-UP TO DPC MINISTERIAL

REFS: A. STATE 136159; B. USNATO 3028; C. BONN 09176;

D. USNATO 3434; E. USNATO 3464; F. STATE 154216;

G. STATE 150394

1. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO OUTLINE A PLAN OF
ACTION TO SUPPORT US AND ALLIED PROPOSALS STEMMING FROM THE
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JUNE 7 DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO

BASIC ISSUES OF NATO DEFENSE PLANNING, CERTAIN CRITICAL AREAS OF FORCE IMPROVEMENTS, AND THE DUTCH SPECIALIZATION PROPOSAL. THIS CONSTITUTES AN AMPLIFIED VERSION OF GUIDANCE PROVIDED IN REF A. REF G PROVIDED ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE ON BURDEN SHARING.

2. IN OUR VIEW, THE ALLIES MUST REGISTER CONCRETE PROGRESS IN THE DECEMBER MINISTERIAL COMMUNIQUE ON THE FOLLOWING ISSUES:

(A) AGREEMENT THAT IN THE CURRENT AGE OF STRATEGIC PARITY, THE CONVENTIONAL DEFENSE OF THE ALLIANCE HAS BECOME MORE IMPORTANT.

(B) NATO HAS THE BASIC INGREDIENTS FOR A SUBSTANTIAL CONVENTIONAL DEFENSE; AND AN IMPROVED CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITY CAN AND WILL BE ENHANCED TO BRING IT TO A LEVEL OF

INCREASED EFFECTIVENESS THROUGH ADDITIONAL EFFORTS IN THE AREAS OF GREATEST NEED.

(C) AGREEMENT THAT DEFICIENCIES WORKING AGAINST THE REALIZATION OF A HIGHER LEVEL OF EFFECTIVENESS WILL BE REMEDIED. PRIORITY AREAS ARE: IMPROVING AIRCRAFT SURVIVABILITY, ENHANCED STOCK LEVELS, IMPROVING ANTI-TANK CAPABILITIES, AND BETTER UTILIZATION OF AIR ASSETS THROUGH CENTRALIZED COMMAND AND CONTROL.

(D) AGREEMENT ON MORE EQUITABLE BURDENSARING ARRANGEMENTS.

(E) REPORT ON PROGRESS IN MBFR NEGOTIATIONS.

(F) INDEPENDENT OF MBFR OUTCOMES, AGREEMENT TO PURSUE THE STUDY OF RESTRUCTURING OPTIONS (E.G. NETHERLANDS STUDY) TO FURTHERIMPROVE THE CAPABILITIES OF NATO FORCES WITHIN THE TOTAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE.

3. TO ACCOMPLISH THESE OBJECTIVES WILL REQUIRE A SUSTAINED AND VIGOROUS EFFORT THROUGH THE ESTABLISHED NATO MECHANISMS AND SPECIAL WORKING GROUPS, AS NECESSARY.

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MORE IMPORTANT, WE MUST ENSURE MOMENTUM THROUGH CONTINUING COORDINATION, NOT ONLY BY APPROPRIATE CONSULTATIONS AT STAFF LEVEL BUT BY CLOSE MINISTERIAL LEVEL ATTENTION AND COOPERATION ON THE DETAILS OF THE ALLIED EFFORT.

4. THE USG IS PREPARED TO UNDERTAKE INTENSIVE NATIONAL STAFF WORK IN SUPPORT OF AN ALLIANCE PROGRAM THAT DEFINES MORE PRECISELY THAT WHICH WE AGREE TO ACHIEVE TOGETHER.

WE DO NOT SUGGEST SETTING UNREALISTIC GOALS, BUT WE WISH TO MEASURE REAL PROGRESS IN ALLIANCE SECURITY MATTERS IN 1973.

5. REF A OUTLINES THE MEANS THROUGH WHICH WE BELIEVE THE EWG SHOULD EXAMINE ISSUES OF DEFENSE PLANNING IN ORDER TO GIVE GREATER SUPPORT TO THE NON-NUCLEAR OPTION AND TAILOR THE POSTURE OF THE ALLIANCE TO STRENGTHEN THAT OPTION. IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH USEFUL RESULTS WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME, WE AGREE WITH MISSION PROPOSAL IN REF D THAT STUDY BY THE EWG BE ON TWO TRACKS. ONE WOULD BE SHORT-TERM, AIMED AT A REPORT TO THE DECEMBER MINISTERIAL DPC, FOCUSING ON INCONSISTENCIES THAT ARE GENERALLY RECOGNIZED. THE ASSIGNMENT FOR THE SHORT-TERM STUDY IS NOT JUST TO IDENTIFY THE PROBLEM BUT TO PRESCRIBE CORRECTIVE ACTION BY SETTING A CONCRETE GOAL FOR ACHIEVEMENT AND A TIMETABLE. THE SECOND PHASE OF THE STUDY WOULD BE FOR THE LONGER TERM. IT WOULD BE A MORE COMPREHENSIVE UNDERTAKING DESIGNED TO IDENTIFY OTHER DEFICIENCIES WHICH ARE NOT SO WIDELY RECOGNIZED. FOR EXAMPLE, AMONG THE BASIC ISSUES BEFORE US WHICH SHOULD RECEIVE ATTENTION IN OUR SHORT-TERM EFFORT IS HOW SHOULD NATO PLAN THE CAPABILITY TO FIGHT CONVENTIONALLY -- HOW MUCH SUSTAINING CAPABILITY SHOULD NATO MAINTAIN?

6. SPECIFICALLY, NATO NEEDS TO CLARIFY AND IMPROVE ITS SUPPLY AND MAINTENANCE POSTURE SO THAT LEVELS OF SUPPORT ARE CONSISTENT, FACILITIES AND SUPPLIES ARE INTERCHANGEABLE, AND SO THAT COSTLY DUPLICATION MAY BE ELIMINATED. ANOTHER ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM IS THAT SOME NATIONS HAVE EMPHASIZED HIGH MANNING LEVELS FOR ACTIVE UNITS AND HAVE NEGLECTED MOBILIZATION, REINFORCEMENT, AND RECEPTION. GUIDANCE MUST BE AGREED SO THAT PROCEDURES

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FOR MOBILIZATION, EQUIPPING, AND TRAINING RESERVES CAN BE STREAMLINED IN ORDER TO IMPROVE M-DAY CAPABILITY AND TO MAKE ADDITIONAL RESERVE UNITS AVAILABLE FOR EFFECTIVE EMPLOYMENT IN THE SUBSEQUENT PERIODS OF DEFENSE.

7. THE ALLIES SHOULD CONTINUE THEIR STUDIES IN THE NPG. THE US BELIEVES THAT THE SCOPE AND INTENSITY OF THESE STUDIES SHOULD BE INCREASED, LOOKING TOWARD A CLOSER DEGREE OF CONSENSUS ON THESE ISSUES, AS INDICATED BY SECRETARY SCHLESINGER IN HIS JUNE 7 REMARKS TO THE DPC. THE US IS UNDERTAKING NATIONAL STUDIES WHICH WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE ALLIES IN THE NPG IN DUE COURSE.

8. WITH REGARD TO CERTAIN CRITICAL AREAS OF FORCE IMPROVEMENTS, REF A SPELLS OUT WHAT WE BELIEVE IS THE

BEST WAY TO FOLLOW-UP ON THE FOUR PRIORITY IMPROVEMENTS
PROPOSED BY THE US THROUGH THE PREPARATION OF DETAILED
REPORTS TO MINISTERS IN DECEMBER. BEGIN FYI. THERE ARE
DITIONAL IMPROVEMENT ELEMENTS THAT COULD BE PUT FORWARD
BUT WE DID NOT ADVANCE THESE AT THE DPC AND CONCENTRATING
ON THEM NOW COULD OVERLOAD THE CIRCUIT AND INVITE OTHERS
TO PROPOSE CONFLICTING PRIORITIES. IF WE PRESS THESE
FOUR ITEMS THEY COULD, IF MINISTERS AGREE, BE FACTORED
INTO PROGRAMS FOR CY 74 AND THEREAFTER. END FYI. AT
EACH SPRING MEETING AFTER DECEMBER 1973 MINISTERS COULD
FOCUS ON A SIMILARLY SMALL SET OF CONCRETE IMPROVEMENT
MEASURES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE AD-70 SPRING REVIEW.
ANOTHER KEY ELEMENT BEARING ON EFFICIENT FORCE IMPROVE-
MENT IS THE QUESTION OF COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND PROCURE-
MENT WHICH COULD BE TIED TO THE PRIORITY IMPROVEMENT
AREAS. THE USG WILL MAKE FURTHER PROPOSALS IN THE CN
CONTEXT.

9. IN SUPPORT OF THE THREE DETAILED REPORTS TO MINISTERS
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